



Minnesota Labor Force Trends: 1990-2000

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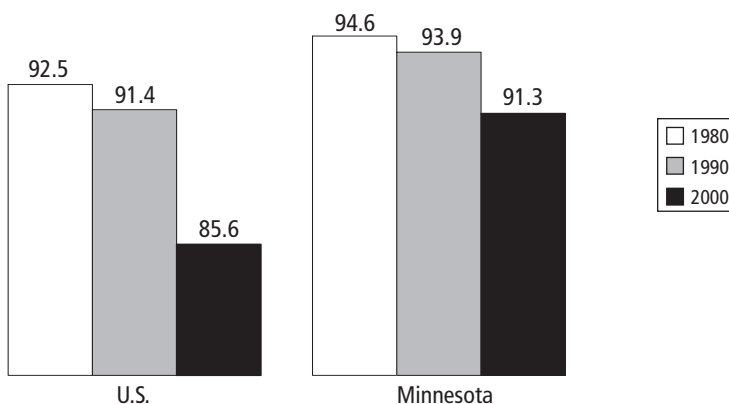
- Minnesota's labor force grew 16 percent between 1990 and 2000.
- Almost all growth in the labor force was due to population increase.
- Minnesota has the highest rate of female labor force participation and the fourth-highest rate of male labor force participation.
- Labor force participation rates have fallen for men age 25 to 54 in both Minnesota and the U.S.
- Female participation rates grew more in Minnesota than in the U.S.
- Participation has risen for teens and older people.
- Participation rates are higher in southern Minnesota than in northern Minnesota.
- Minnesota's labor force has become older, more female, and more racially and ethnically diverse.

Minnesota's labor force grew from 2,314,975 in 1990 to 2,691,709 in 2000, an increase of 16 percent. During the same period, the population increased 12 percent. As expected, the new census numbers show that the state's work force grew most in areas of rapid population gain and became more diverse, older and more female.

Other findings are less expected. The main surprise is that labor force participation did not increase as much as was anticipated. Minnesota's tight labor market in the 1990s was remarkable. Unemployment rates reached record low levels and employers in many industries reported difficulties finding workers. A report prepared by the State Demographic Center in 1999, based on information from the U.S. Census

Participation rates for men 25-54 are falling in U.S. and in Minnesota

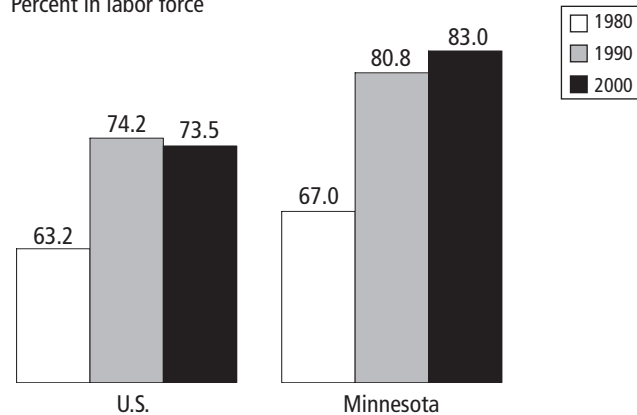
Percent in labor force



Sources: 1980, 1990 and 2000 census data

Gap in participation rate for women 25-54 between Minnesota and U.S. is increasing

Percent in labor force



Sources: 1980, 1990 and 2000 census data

Bureau and the Minnesota Department of Economic Security, concluded that this tight labor market had produced higher levels of participation in the labor force. These higher participation rates were believed to have compensated for modest population growth. The report attributed 78 percent of the growth in labor force between 1990 and 1996 to higher participation rates.

The results of the 2000 census give a different picture of what has been happening to Minnesota's and the nation's labor force. Contrary to expectations, most of the gain in Minnesota's labor force – 90 percent – has stemmed not from increases in labor force participation but simply from growth in the working-age population. The demand for labor was met, apparently, mostly from immigration rather than higher participation rates. The Census Bureau underestimated population growth during the last decade, producing a misleading impression of Minnesota's work force participation trends.

Falling participation rates for men 25 to 54

Particularly noteworthy is that, in the face of record low unemployment and a high demand for labor, participation rates for men ages 25 to 54 have fallen. The decline for males nationally has been even greater than in Minnesota.

The overall labor force participation for men in Minnesota fell slightly from 77.4 to 76.6 percent. The main reason was a decline in participation for men in the 25- to 54-year-old group, from 93.9 percent to 91.3 percent.

OASDI disability recipients (workers and dependents)

	1990	2000	Percent change
U.S.	4,266,000	6,675,000	56.5
Minnesota	53,000	86,000	62.3

Sources: 1992 Statistical Abstract, Table 574
2001 Statistical Abstract (Library Edition), Table 528

Participation actually rose for younger workers and for older men. There were especially substantial increases in participation for men over 65. The increases for older men reversed the long-term trend to lower participation rates in this age bracket.

Despite the downward trend, Minnesota has some of the highest participation rates for men in the country. Minnesota ranks fourth in participation among men 16 and older and second among men age 25 to 54.

The decline in male participation was much more dramatic in the United States as a whole than in Minnesota. The national participation rate for men age 25 to 54 fell

from 91.4 to 85.6 percent. As in Minnesota, national participation rates rose for men over 65, but in every other age group they fell.

Why are labor force participation rates falling for men 25 to 54?

In a period of strong economic growth and extremely low unemployment, the falling participation rate for men 25 to 54, an age group where most would be expected to be working, is puzzling. Juhn and colleagues, in a recent report for the Brookings Panel on Economic Activity, attribute much of the decline to increased use of disability by men with lower levels of skill and education. The number of Minnesota disability

Trends in U.S. and Minnesota labor force participation rates

	Minnesota				United States			
	Males 1990	Males 2000	Females 1990	Females 2000	Males 1990	Males 2000	Females 1990	Females 2000
16 to 19	59.7	60.3	61.0	63.9	51.5	50.5	49.4	50.3
20 to 24	83.7	84.6	80.3	82.4	80.9	77.6	72.1	72.0
25 to 54	93.9	91.3	80.8	83.0	91.4	85.6	74.2	73.5
55 to 64	70.9	71.9	50.6	59.6	67.1	65.7	45.6	50.8
65 to 69	28.7	33.2	18.2	24.0	27.9	30.2	16.9	19.9
Age 70+	10.4	13.5	4.3	6.8	11.7	13.2	4.8	6.3
Total 16+	77.4	76.6	62.5	66.0	74.4	70.7	56.8	57.5

Sources: 1990 and 2000 census data

Minnesota labor force participation rates, 1990 and 2000

Age	Male participation rates		Female participation rates	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
16-19	59.7	60.3	61.0	63.9
20-24	83.7	84.6	80.3	82.4
25-29	93.5	90.5	82.3	83.2
30-34	94.7	91.8	80.1	81.1
35-44	94.8	91.8	82.3	83.0
45-54	92.9	90.8	77.9	83.8
55-59	83.0	81.6	61.6	69.5
60-64	58.2	59.2	39.8	47.5
65+	16.6	19.4	8.0	10.8
Total 16+	77.4	76.6	62.5	66.0
Total 25-54	93.9	91.3	80.8	83.0

Source: 1990 and 2000 census data

recipients under the disability program of OASDI (Social Security's Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance) grew by about 33,000 during the 1990s, an increase of 62 percent. The national increase was also dramatic. The disability recipients include female workers as well as dependents of workers, so

assessing the exact impact on male participation is difficult.

Other explanations that have been given include more men relying on working wives, more people living off investments, and increased rates of incarceration. Clearly the trend merits more investigation.

Female participation rises in Minnesota, stable or falling in U.S.

Participation rates for women in Minnesota have risen, especially among older women, though increases were less than in previous decades. Nationally, participation rates for women have barely changed, and the rate for women 25 to 54 has declined.

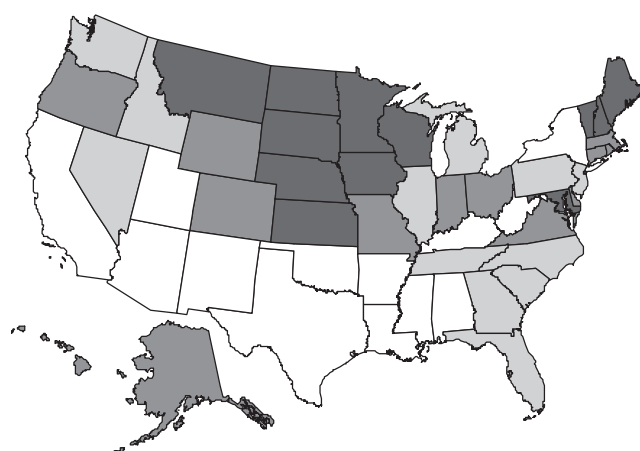
The overall labor force participation rate for Minnesota women age 16 and older rose from 62.5 in 1990 to 66.0 in 2000. Minnesota had the highest overall female participation rate in the nation, just ahead of Alaska, New Hampshire and Vermont. In participation among women 25 to 54, Minnesota ranked second in participation (83.0 percent), just behind South Dakota (83.1 percent).

Participation rates rose in every female age group in Minnesota, with the greatest increases for women 55 to 64. The rate for women in this age group went up from 50.6 percent to 59.6 percent.

In contrast to Minnesota trends, the participation rate for women nationally increased only slightly, from 56.8 to 57.7 percent. The participation rate for women 25 to 54 actually fell a bit. As in Minnesota, the largest gain was for women in the 55- to 64-year-old age group. Women 65 to 69 and teens also had noticeable gains in participation at the national level.

The increases among older women probably reflect a historical trend to higher participation. Women now in this age group have had more work experience and relatively high participation rates throughout their

Upper Midwest has high labor force participation rates for females 25-54 in 2000

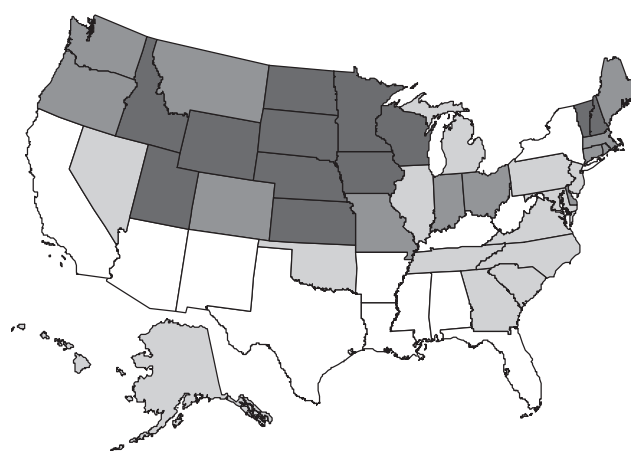


U.S.: 73.5

- 65.4 to 72.3
- 72.3 to 75.4
- 75.4 to 78.0
- 78.0 to 83.1

Source: 2000 census data

Upper Midwest has high labor force participation rates for males 25-54 in 2000



U.S.: 85.6

- 80.3 to 84.0
- 84.0 to 87.2
- 87.2 to 88.9
- 88.9 to 91.9

Source: 2000 census data

lifetimes compared to previous generations. They are carrying this over later in life.

As women's participation rates have risen and men's have stagnated, women in Minnesota have increased their representation in the labor force. In the 2000 census data, women made up 47.4 percent of the labor force, up from 46.3 in 1990 and 42.9 in 1980.

Upper Midwestern states have high participation rates

Among states, the highest participation rates are found in the Upper Midwest (including Minnesota), the New England states of Vermont and New Hampshire, and a few western states. Virginia and Maryland also rank high on most indicators. Southern states and a few large states such as New York, California and Texas have lower participation rates and pull down the national average.

Participation rates are higher in southern Minnesota

Within Minnesota, participation rates for both men and women are higher in southern Minnesota – with the notable exceptions of the two most populous counties, Hennepin and Ramsey – and are lower in northern Minnesota. The participation discrepancy between northern and southern Minnesota is a long-standing pattern. Labor force participation is generally inversely related to unemployment. Areas with higher unemployment rates tend to have lower labor force participation rates. Availability

STATE RANKINGS ON LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION, 2000

Labor force participation rate, males 16+			Labor force participation rate, females 16+			Labor force participation rate, total population 16+		
Rank			Rank			Rank		
1	Utah	77.2	1	Minnesota	66.0	1	Alaska	71.3
2	New Hampshire	76.9	2	Alaska	65.9	2	Minnesota	71.2
3	Colorado	76.6	3	New Hampshire	64.4	3	New Hampshire	70.5
4	Minnesota	76.5	4	Vermont	64.3	4	Colorado	70.1
5	Alaska	76.3	5	Wisconsin	64.1	5	Nebraska	69.7
6	Nebraska	75.9	6	Nebraska	63.9	6	Vermont	69.3
7	Vermont	74.6	7	South Dakota	63.7	7	Wisconsin	69.1
8	Kansas	74.4	8	Colorado	63.7	8	Utah	69.0
9	Wisconsin	74.3	9	Maryland	62.8	9	South Dakota	68.4
10	Iowa	74.2	10	Iowa	62.7	10	Iowa	68.2
11	Indiana	73.7	11	North Dakota	62.4	11	Maryland	67.8
12	Wyoming	73.7	12	Wyoming	61.3	12	Kansas	67.5
13	Virginia	73.4	13	Utah	61.0	13	North Dakota	67.5
14	Maryland	73.3	14	Kansas	60.9	14	Wyoming	67.5
15	Washington	73.3	15	Virginia	60.6	15	Virginia	66.8
16	Connecticut	73.3	16	Massachusetts	60.4	16	Indiana	66.6
17	South Dakota	73.3	17	Connecticut	60.4	17	Connecticut	66.6
18	Idaho	73.2	18	District of Columbia	60.2	18	Washington	66.5
19	Georgia	73.1	19	Delaware	60.2	19	Massachusetts	66.2
20	North Carolina	72.7	20	Indiana	60.0	20	Idaho	66.1
21	North Dakota	72.7	21	Washington	59.9	21	Georgia	66.1
22	Massachusetts	72.6	22	Montana	59.9	22	Delaware	65.7
23	Illinois	72.2	23	Maine	59.8	23	North Carolina	65.7
24	Oregon	72.0	24	Georgia	59.4	24	Illinois	65.4
25	Delaware	71.8	25	Nevada	59.2	25	Montana	65.4
26	Ohio	71.7	26	Missouri	59.2	26	Maine	65.3
27	New Jersey	71.6	27	Idaho	59.1	27	Oregon	65.2
28	Missouri	71.6	28	Hawaii	59.1	28	Missouri	65.2
29	Texas	71.4	29	Illinois	59.0	29	Nevada	65.2
30	Rhode Island	71.2	30	North Carolina	59.0	30	Ohio	64.8
31	Maine	71.2	31	Rhode Island	58.7	31	Rhode Island	64.6
32	Tennessee	71.1	32	Oregon	58.6	32	Michigan	64.6
33	Michigan	71.1	33	Ohio	58.5	33	Hawaii	64.5
34	Montana	71.0	34	Michigan	58.5	34	New Jersey	64.2
35	Nevada	71.0	35	New Jersey	57.5		U.S. AVERAGE	63.9
	U.S. AVERAGE	70.7	36	South Carolina	57.5	35	Texas	63.6
36	Hawaii	69.9		U.S. AVERAGE	57.5	36	District of Columbia	63.6
37	South Carolina	69.8	37	Tennessee	56.5	37	Tennessee	63.5
38	California	69.6	38	Texas	56.2	38	South Carolina	63.4
39	Oklahoma	69.6	39	California	55.5	39	California	62.4
40	Pennsylvania	69.2	40	Pennsylvania	55.3	40	Oklahoma	62.1
41	Kentucky	68.0	41	Oklahoma	55.1	41	Pennsylvania	61.9
42	Arizona	68.0	42	New York	55.1	42	Arizona	61.1
43	New York	67.8	43	New Mexico	54.7	43	New York	61.1
44	New Mexico	67.6	44	Kentucky	54.4	44	New Mexico	61.0
45	District of Columbia	67.5	45	Arkansas	54.4	45	Kentucky	60.9
46	Alabama	67.4	46	Arizona	54.3	46	Arkansas	60.6
47	Arkansas	67.3	47	Mississippi	53.5	47	Alabama	59.7
48	Louisiana	66.2	48	Louisiana	53.2	48	Louisiana	59.4
49	Mississippi	66.0	49	Florida	52.8	49	Mississippi	59.4
50	Florida	64.9	50	Alabama	52.8	50	Florida	58.6
51	West Virginia	61.9	51	West Virginia	47.6	51	West Virginia	54.5

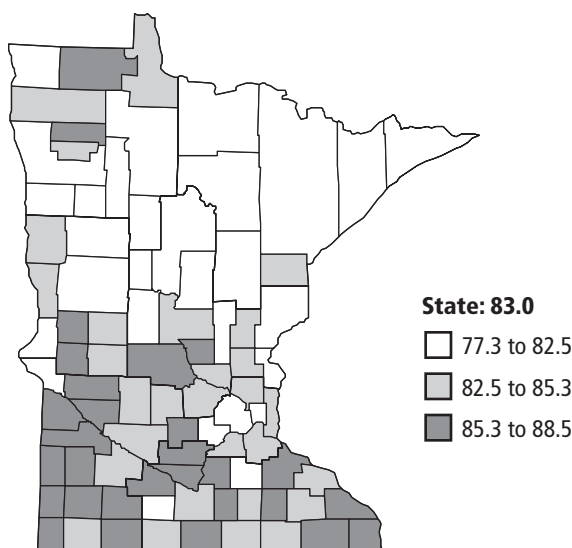
Source: 2000 census data, SF3

STATE RANKINGS ON LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION, 2000

Labor force participation rate, males 25-54			Labor force participation rate, females 25-54			Labor force participation rate, total population 25-54			Unemployment rate, 2000		
Rank			Rank			Rank			Rank		
1	New Hampshire	91.9	1	South Dakota	83.1	1	Minnesota	87.2	1	District of Columbia	10.8
2	Minnesota	91.3	2	Minnesota	83.0	2	North Dakota	86.9	2	Alaska	9.0
3	North Dakota	90.9	3	North Dakota	82.7	3	Iowa	86.6	3	Mississippi	7.4
4	Nebraska	90.7	4	Iowa	82.6	4	South Dakota	86.3	4	West Virginia	7.3
5	Vermont	90.7	5	Wisconsin	81.8	5	Vermont	86.2	5	New Mexico	7.3
6	Iowa	90.6	6	Vermont	81.8	6	Nebraska	86.0	6	Louisiana	7.3
7	Utah	90.5	7	Nebraska	81.3	7	New Hampshire	85.9	7	New York	7.1
8	Wisconsin	89.9	8	New Hampshire	80.0	8	Wisconsin	85.9	8	California	7.0
9	South Dakota	89.4	9	Maine	78.5	9	Kansas	83.7	9	Oregon	6.5
10	Kansas	89.2	10	Maryland	78.3	10	Wyoming	83.4	10	Hawaii	6.3
11	Idaho	89.1	11	Montana	78.2	11	Maine	83.4	11	Montana	6.3
12	Wyoming	89.1	12	Kansas	78.1	12	Montana	83.2	12	Washington	6.2
13	Connecticut	88.9	13	Delaware	78.0	13	Connecticut	83.1	13	Alabama	6.2
14	Indiana	88.9	14	Wyoming	77.6	14	Colorado	83.0	14	Nevada	6.2
15	Colorado	88.6	15	Connecticut	77.6	15	Delaware	82.8	15	Arkansas	6.1
16	Maine	88.4	16	Massachusetts	77.3	16	Maryland	82.6	16	Texas	6.1
17	Oregon	88.4	17	Colorado	77.1	17	Indiana	82.6	17	Illinois	6.0
18	Washington	88.2	18	Rhode Island	76.8	18	Massachusetts	82.4	18	South Carolina	5.9
19	Montana	88.1	19	Missouri	76.6	19	Rhode Island	82.0	19	New Jersey	5.8
20	Delaware	87.9	20	Indiana	76.4	20	Oregon	82.0	20	Michigan	5.8
21	Massachusetts	87.8	21	Hawaii	76.4	21	Missouri	81.9	21	Idaho	5.8
22	Ohio	87.7	22	Virginia	76.1	22	Idaho	81.8		U.S. AVERAGE	5.8
23	Rhode Island	87.5	23	Ohio	75.7	23	Ohio	81.7	22	Pennsylvania	5.7
24	Missouri	87.3	24	Oregon	75.6	24	Virginia	81.6	23	Kentucky	5.7
25	Virginia	87.2	25	Alaska	75.5	25	Washington	81.5	24	Florida	5.6
26	Maryland	87.2	26	District of Columbia	75.4	26	Alaska	81.4	25	Rhode Island	5.6
27	Pennsylvania	87.2	27	North Carolina	75.2	27	Hawaii	81.1	26	Arizona	5.6
28	Alaska	86.9	28	Pennsylvania	74.9	28	Utah	81.1	27	Tennessee	5.5
29	North Carolina	86.8	29	Washington	74.8	29	Pennsylvania	81.0	28	Georgia	5.5
30	Michigan	86.7	30	Michigan	74.7	30	North Carolina	80.9	29	Wyoming	5.3
31	New Jersey	86.7	31	Illinois	74.5	31	Michigan	80.7	30	Connecticut	5.3
32	Illinois	86.3	32	Idaho	74.4	32	Illinois	80.4	31	North Carolina	5.3
33	Hawaii	85.6	33	South Carolina	73.9	33	New Jersey	79.9	32	Oklahoma	5.3
34	Tennessee	85.6		U.S. AVERAGE	73.5		U.S. AVERAGE	79.6	33	Missouri	5.3
35	Georgia	85.2	34	New Jersey	73.3	34	Georgia	79.2	34	Delaware	5.2
36	Oklahoma	84.6	35	Georgia	73.2	35	South Carolina	79.1	35	Utah	5.0
37	Nevada	84.5	36	Nevada	72.9	36	Tennessee	79.0	36	Ohio	5.0
38	South Carolina	84.4	37	Florida	72.7	37	Nevada	78.9	37	Indiana	4.9
39	Arizona	84.0	38	Tennessee	72.5	38	Oklahoma	78.2	38	Maine	4.8
40	Arkansas	83.8	39	Arkansas	72.3	39	Florida	78.1	39	Wisconsin	4.7
41	Texas	83.8	40	Oklahoma	71.8	40	Arkansas	78.0	40	Maryland	4.7
42	Florida	83.6	41	Utah	71.3	41	District of Columbia	77.9	41	Massachusetts	4.6
43	New York	83.4	42	New York	71.2	42	Arizona	77.3	42	North Dakota	4.6
44	Alabama	83.3	43	Kentucky	70.4	43	New York	77.1	43	South Dakota	4.4
45	New Mexico	82.9	44	Arizona	70.4	44	Texas	76.7	44	Colorado	4.3
46	Kentucky	82.6	45	Mississippi	70.2	45	Alabama	76.4	45	Kansas	4.2
47	California	82.5	46	New Mexico	69.9	46	Kentucky	76.4	46	Vermont	4.2
48	Mississippi	81.3	47	Alabama	69.8	47	New Mexico	76.3	47	Virginia	4.2
49	Louisiana	81.1	48	Texas	69.6	48	California	75.8	48	Iowa	4.2
50	District of Columbia	80.6	49	Louisiana	69.2	49	Mississippi	75.6	49	Minnesota	4.1
51	West Virginia	80.3	50	California	68.9	50	Louisiana	75.0	50	New Hampshire	3.8
			51	West Virginia	65.4	51	West Virginia	72.8	51	Nebraska	3.5

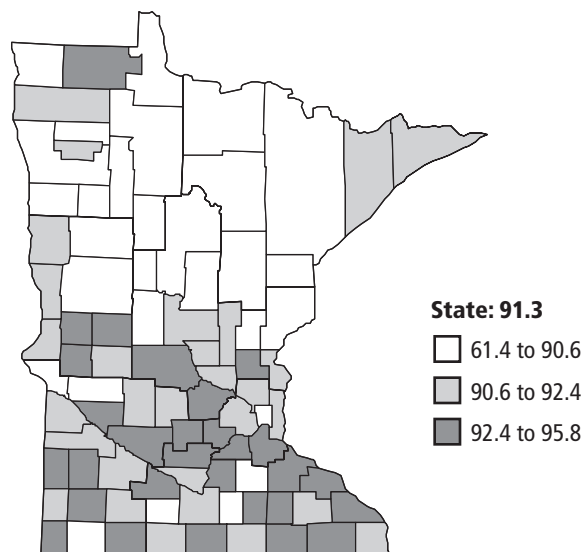
Source: 2000 census data, SF3

Labor force participation rate of women 25-54 is higher in southern Minnesota



Source: 2000 census data

Labor force participation rate of men 25-54 is higher in southern Minnesota



Source: 2000 census data

of jobs encourages more people to enter the labor force.

Minnesota ranks high on dual-earner couples and working mothers

Minnesota continues to rank high among states on indicators of family labor force participation. The state ranked fifth on the percent of children under 6 with all parents in the

labor force, at 68.8 percent. South Dakota (73.0) and North Dakota (71.4) ranked first and second. "All parents in the labor force" means that both parents are in the labor force in a two-parent family or one parent is in the labor force in a single-parent family.

Minnesota ranked fourth on the percent of women with children under 18 in the labor

force (79.3 percent) and first on the percent of married couples with both spouses in the labor force (61.8 percent). All these rankings are consistent with the state's high rates of female labor force participation.

The proportions of dual-earner couples, working mothers, and children with all parents in the labor force all increased

in Minnesota between 1990 and 2000. The percent of couples with both partners in the labor force grew from 59.4 to 61.8 percent. The percent of children under 6 with all parents in the work force went from 65.7 to 68.6 percent. The percent of mothers with children under 6 in the labor force rose from 69.3 to 72.4.

Participation rates vary by race and ethnicity

White alone non-Hispanic people in Minnesota are more likely to be in the labor force than nonwhite or Latino people. However, participation rates for African American alone, Latino, other race alone and people identified with two or more races are well above the national averages for those populations. In the 2000 census people could identify with more than one race; Latino origin is not a racial category.

Family employment, 1990 and 2000

	U.S. 1990	U.S. 2000	Minnesota 1980	Minnesota 1990	Minnesota 2000
Dual-earner couples*: percent of all couples	52.0	51.3	47.8	59.4	61.8
Children under 6, percent with all parents in labor force	56.8	58.6	n/a	65.7	68.6
Children 6-17, percent with all parents in labor force	67.7	67.4	n/a	75.3	77.8
Percent of mothers with children under 18 in labor force	67.7	69.1	59.5	75.6	79.3
Percent of mothers with children under 6 in labor force	59.7	61.9	50.4	69.3	72.4

*Husband and wife both in labor force (includes unemployed)

Source: 1980, 1990 and 2000 census data

The participation rate for white alone non-Latino Minnesotans age 16 and older was 71.6 percent in 2000, the third highest rate among states for this race-ethnic group. Among Minnesota Latinos, 70.1 percent were in the work force compared to 61.4 percent nationally. Minnesota's Latino participation rate was the eighth highest in the nation. The rate for black or African-American alone residents (67.4 percent) also ranked eighth, and the participation rate among people of two or more races (69.8 percent) ranked ninth. Minnesota's rates of Asian alone (65.6 percent) and American Indian alone (63.0 percent) participation were among the middle rank of states, though still higher than the U.S. averages. Only for Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander alone residents did Minnesota have a participation rate below the national average. There are few native Hawaiians in Minnesota. At the time of the census, a number of Hawaiian men were incarcerated in a Minnesota prison, lowering the participation rate considerably.

Labor force becomes older

As the baby boom generation ages, Minnesota's labor force is also becoming older. A secondary factor behind the aging of the labor force has been the rising rates of participation at older ages. The proportion of the labor force in the 45- to- 64-year old group rose from 24.8 percent in 1990 to 31.4 percent in 2000. Meanwhile, the percentage of workers age 25 to 44 dropped from 55.2 percent to 48.6 percent.

STATE RANKINGS ON LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION, 2000

Percent of children under 6 with all parent in labor force			Percent of mothers with children under 18 in labor force			Percent of married couples with both spouses in labor force		
Rank			Rank			Rank		
1	South Dakota	73.0	1	South Dakota	81.7	1	Minnesota	61.8
2	North Dakota	72.6	2	North Dakota	81.2	2	South Dakota	61.5
3	Iowa	71.4	3	Iowa	80.8	3	Nebraska	61.3
4	Nebraska	69.8	4	Minnesota	79.3	4	Vermont	61.1
5	Minnesota	68.8	5	Nebraska	78.9	5	New Hampshire	60.1
6	Wisconsin	68.4	6	Wisconsin	78.8	6	Iowa	59.9
7	Vermont	68.1	7	Vermont	78.7	7	North Dakota	59.5
8	Maine	65.4	8	Maine	76.2	8	Wisconsin	59.5
9	Delaware	65.3	9	Montana	75.9	9	Maryland	57.5
10	Montana	64.9	10	New Hampshire	75.9	10	Kansas	57.3
11	Maryland	64.6	11	Delaware	74.7	11	Alaska	57.0
12	Missouri	64.2	12	Wyoming	74.6	12	Colorado	56.9
13	New Hampshire	64.0	13	Maryland	74.6	13	Wyoming	56.1
14	Wyoming	63.8	14	Kansas	74.5	14	Massachusetts	55.9
15	Kansas	62.7	15	Missouri	73.8	15	Connecticut	55.6
16	Indiana	62.6	16	Indiana	73.0	16	Maine	55.3
17	South Carolina	62.6	17	Connecticut	72.7	17	Virginia	55.3
18	District of Columbia	62.2	18	Hawaii	72.4	18	Indiana	54.7
19	Ohio	62.1	19	Ohio	72.3	19	Rhode Island	54.7
20	Virginia	62.1	20	Rhode Island	72.2	20	Montana	54.2
21	Connecticut	61.9	21	Virginia	72.1	21	Delaware	54.2
22	Hawaii	61.8	22	South Carolina	71.6	22	Missouri	53.7
23	Rhode Island	61.8	23	Massachusetts	71.6	23	Georgia	53.6
24	Mississippi	61.7	24	North Carolina	71.5	24	Utah	53.4
25	North Carolina	61.2	25	Michigan	71.3	25	North Carolina	53.4
26	Michigan	60.9	26	Alaska	71.2	26	Illinois	53.0
27	Massachusetts	60.7	27	Pennsylvania	70.8	27	Idaho	52.9
28	Florida	60.3	28	Colorado	70.8	28	Ohio	52.8
29	Pennsylvania	60.2	29	Oregon	70.5	29	Washington	52.2
30	Arkansas	60.1	30	Arkansas	70.1	30	Hawaii	51.7
31	Tennessee	60.0	31	Idaho	70.0	31	New Jersey	51.7
32	Alaska	59.7	32	Tennessee	69.6	32	Oregon	51.4
33	Georgia	59.2	33	Washington	69.6	33	South Carolina	51.4
34	Louisiana	59.1	34	Illinois	69.5		U.S. AVERAGE	51.3
35	Oregon	58.9	35	Mississippi	69.5	34	Michigan	51.2
36	Colorado	58.9	36	Florida	69.4	35	District of Columbia	51.1
37	Kentucky	58.6	37	Georgia	69.3	36	Tennessee	51.0
	U.S. AVERAGE	58.6		U.S. AVERAGE	69.1	37	Pennsylvania	50.8
38	Alabama	58.4	38	Oklahoma	69.0	38	Oklahoma	49.5
39	Oklahoma	58.3	39	Nevada	67.9	39	Mississippi	49.2
40	Illinois	58.3	40	Kentucky	67.9	40	Texas	49.0
41	Idaho	57.8	41	District of Columbia	67.9	41	Arkansas	48.8
42	Washington	57.6	42	Alabama	67.7	42	New York	48.6
43	Nevada	57.3	43	New Jersey	67.5	43	Nevada	48.6
44	New Jersey	56.0	44	Louisiana	67.3	44	Kentucky	48.4
45	New Mexico	55.4	45	New York	65.6	45	Alabama	48.1
46	New York	54.4	46	New Mexico	65.4	46	California	47.2
47	West Virginia	54.2	47	Utah	65.2	47	Louisiana	47.1
48	Arizona	53.4	48	Arizona	64.3	48	New Mexico	45.8
49	Texas	53.3	49	Texas	64.2	49	Arizona	44.8
50	Utah	52.3	50	West Virginia	63.1	50	Florida	44.2
51	California	51.8	51	California	62.5	51	West Virginia	40.7

Source: 2000 census data, SF3

The percent of young adult workers 16 to 24 fell a little and the proportion of workers over age 65 inched up.

More diversity

Minnesota's labor force has become more racially and ethnically diverse, though exact comparisons are not possible because of changes in the way race was defined in the 2000 census. Changes in the labor force mirror changes in the population as a whole. In 1990, 4.1 percent of the labor force was either nonwhite or Latino. In 2000, the percent who were either Latino or identified with a nonwhite race was 8.2 percent. The 2000 figure includes people who identified with two or more races.

Direct comparison between 1990 and 2000 is possible only in the case of Latinos. The number of Latinos in the labor force almost tripled, from 21,514 in 1990 to 64,263 in 2000.

Labor force growth follows population growth

Fast-growing suburban counties had the highest rates of labor force growth between 1990 and 2000. These included Sherburne (63 percent growth), Scott (58 percent) and Chisago and Carver counties (both 45 percent). Also ranking high were lakes area counties such as Cass, Pine, Cook and Crow Wing. The labor force declined in only four counties. As would be expected, the pattern of labor force growth was generally strongly related to population growth.

STATE RANKINGS ON LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION, 2000

White alone labor force participation rate			Black/African American alone labor force participation rate			American Indian/Alaska Native alone labor force participation rate		
Rank			Rank			Rank		
1	District of Columbia	75.9	1	Hawaii	80.3	1	Virginia	71.2
2	Alaska	73.8	2	Alaska	76.5	2	Maryland	69.7
3	Minnesota	71.5	3	North Dakota	75.4	3	Georgia	68.2
4	Colorado	70.7	4	New Hampshire	71.1	4	Delaware	68.2
5	New Hampshire	70.5	5	Maine	67.7	5	Colorado	67.7
6	Nebraska	70.1	6	Washington	67.6	6	Oregon	67.6
7	Wisconsin	69.7	7	Utah	67.4	7	Vermont	67.4
8	South Dakota	69.3	8	Minnesota	67.4	8	Wisconsin	67.2
9	Vermont	69.3	9	Colorado	67.2	9	Hawaii	66.6
10	Utah	69.2	10	Maryland	66.6	10	Kansas	66.5
11	Hawaii	68.9	11	South Dakota	66.4	11	New Hampshire	66.4
12	Iowa	68.3	12	Idaho	65.5	12	Tennessee	66.4
13	Maryland	68.1	13	Arizona	65.4	13	Indiana	66.2
14	Kansas	67.8	14	Delaware	65.3	14	Michigan	66.2
15	North Dakota	67.7	15	Montana	64.9	15	South Carolina	66.1
16	Wyoming	67.6	16	Connecticut	64.8	16	Illinois	65.1
17	Virginia	67.3	17	Vermont	64.3	17	District of Columbia	65.1
18	Indiana	67.0	18	Iowa	63.7	18	Missouri	65.0
19	Connecticut	66.9	19	Virginia	63.7	19	Florida	64.8
20	Georgia	66.9	20	Nevada	63.7	20	Idaho	64.6
21	Massachusetts	66.8	21	Georgia	63.4	21	Texas	64.5
22	Illinois	66.7	22	Oregon	63.3	22	Nevada	64.0
23	Washington	66.4	23	Kansas	63.0	23	Washington	63.4
24	North Carolina	66.3	24	Nebraska	62.7	24	Alabama	63.3
25	Idaho	66.0	25	New Mexico	62.7	25	Iowa	63.2
26	Montana	65.7	26	Wyoming	62.7	26	Minnesota	63.0
27	Missouri	65.6	27	Massachusetts	62.5	27	North Carolina	62.8
28	Delaware	65.6	28	North Carolina	62.4	28	Oklahoma	62.6
29	Michigan	65.5	29	New Jersey	62.1	29	Ohio	62.5
30	Ohio	65.4	30	Texas	61.8	30	Arkansas	62.4
31	Nevada	65.4	31	Tennessee	61.8	31	Utah	62.2
32	Maine	65.3	32	Indiana	61.7	32	Wyoming	61.7
33	Rhode Island	65.1	33	Rhode Island	61.5	33	California	61.5
34	Oregon	64.9	34	Missouri	61.1	34	New Jersey	61.5
35	South Carolina	64.8	35	Florida	60.6	35	Nebraska	61.4
	U.S. AVERAGE	64.6		U.S. AVERAGE	60.2		U.S. AVERAGE	61.1
36	New Jersey	64.4	36	Oklahoma	60.0	36	Pennsylvania	61.0
37	Texas	64.0	37	Kentucky	59.8	37	Connecticut	60.9
38	Tennessee	63.7	38	California	59.5	38	Mississippi	60.8
39	California	63.1	39	South Carolina	59.2	39	Kentucky	60.7
40	Pennsylvania	62.5	40	Ohio	59.1	40	Maine	60.1
41	New York	62.3	41	Wisconsin	58.9	41	Massachusetts	59.5
42	Oklahoma	62.1	42	Illinois	58.7	42	North Dakota	59.4
43	Louisiana	61.4	43	Michigan	58.4	43	Montana	59.2
44	Arkansas	61.3	44	New York	57.7	44	Louisiana	59.1
45	Mississippi	61.3	45	Pennsylvania	56.6	45	Alaska	58.3
46	Arizona	61.2	46	Arkansas	56.0	46	New York	57.9
47	New Mexico	61.1	47	District of Columbia	55.4	47	South Dakota	55.8
48	Alabama	61.1	48	Mississippi	55.4	48	Rhode Island	55.1
49	Kentucky	60.9	49	Alabama	55.0	49	New Mexico	53.7
50	Florida	57.8	50	Louisiana	54.8	50	West Virginia	53.1
51	West Virginia	54.6	51	West Virginia	49.7	51	Arizona	52.2

Source: 2000 census data, SF3

STATE RANKINGS ON LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION, 2000

Two or more races labor force participation rate

Rank		
1	Maryland	71.0
2	Nebraska	70.4
3	Alaska	70.3
4	Utah	70.2
5	New Hampshire	70.1
6	District of Columbia	70.1
7	Colorado	69.9
8	South Dakota	69.9
9	Minnesota	69.8
10	Delaware	69.4
11	Wisconsin	69.1
12	Washington	69.0
13	Virginia	69.0
14	North Carolina	68.8
15	Wyoming	68.3
16	Georgia	68.2
17	Kansas	68.2
18	Vermont	67.3
19	Hawaii	67.3
20	Iowa	67.2
21	Idaho	67.1
22	Montana	66.9
23	North Dakota	66.7
24	Nevada	66.7
25	Oregon	66.6
26	South Carolina	65.7
27	Indiana	65.5
28	Illinois	65.5
29	Missouri	65.1
30	Ohio	64.5
31	New Jersey	64.5
32	Massachusetts	64.5
33	Connecticut	64.5
	U.S. AVERAGE	64.1
34	Michigan	64.1
35	Arizona	63.7
36	Maine	63.6
37	Rhode Island	63.4
38	Florida	63.2
39	California	62.8
40	Texas	62.8
41	Oklahoma	62.7
42	Tennessee	62.2
43	Alabama	61.8
44	New Mexico	61.6
45	Pennsylvania	61.5
46	Louisiana	60.8
47	Kentucky	60.7
48	Arkansas	59.7
49	Mississippi	59.6
50	New York	59.5
51	West Virginia	51.7

Source: 2000 census data, SF3

Hispanic origin/Latino labor force participation rate

Rank		
1	Alaska	74.6
2	North Dakota	73.4
3	Tennessee	71.5
4	South Carolina	71.2
5	North Carolina	70.8
6	Virginia	70.5
7	South Dakota	70.5
8	Oregon	70.4
9	Minnesota	70.1
10	Washington	69.3
11	District of Columbia	69.3
12	Vermont	68.9
13	Iowa	68.8
14	Georgia	68.8
15	Hawaii	68.8
16	Maryland	68.7
17	New Hampshire	68.5
18	Indiana	68.4
19	Utah	68.4
20	Montana	67.8
21	Delaware	67.8
22	Idaho	67.6
23	Missouri	67.6
24	Kentucky	67.2
25	Nebraska	67.2
26	Michigan	67.1
27	Wyoming	66.9
28	Kansas	66.7
29	Wisconsin	66.6
30	Alabama	66.5
31	Ohio	66.4
32	Maine	66.1
33	Oklahoma	64.9
34	Mississippi	64.7
35	Colorado	64.4
36	Arkansas	64.3
37	Illinois	63.4
38	Nevada	63.0
39	Connecticut	62.7
40	New Jersey	62.6
	U.S. AVERAGE	61.4
41	Louisiana	61.1
42	California	60.6
43	Arizona	60.5
44	New Mexico	60.3
45	Florida	60.1
46	Texas	59.9
47	West Virginia	59.5
48	Massachusetts	58.5
49	Rhode Island	58.1
50	Pennsylvania	57.8
51	New York	56.0

White alone, not Hispanic labor force participation rate

Rank		
1	District of Columbia	76.3
2	Alaska	73.8
3	Minnesota	71.6
4	Colorado	71.5
5	New Hampshire	70.6
6	Nebraska	70.2
7	Wisconsin	69.8
8	Utah	69.3
9	Vermont	69.3
10	South Dakota	69.3
11	Hawaii	69.0
12	Iowa	68.3
13	Maryland	68.1
14	Kansas	67.8
15	Wyoming	67.7
16	North Dakota	67.7
17	Virginia	67.3
18	Indiana	67.0
19	Connecticut	67.0
20	Massachusetts	67.0
21	Illinois	66.9
22	Georgia	66.9
23	Washington	66.4
24	North Carolina	66.2
25	Idaho	66.0
26	Nevada	65.8
27	Texas	65.7
28	Missouri	65.6
29	Montana	65.6
30	Delaware	65.6
31	Michigan	65.5
32	Ohio	65.4
33	Maine	65.3
34	Rhode Island	65.3
	U.S. AVERAGE	64.9
35	South Carolina	64.8
36	Oregon	64.7
37	New Jersey	64.6
38	California	64.0
39	Tennessee	63.6
40	New York	62.8
41	Pennsylvania	62.6
42	New Mexico	62.5
43	Oklahoma	62.1
44	Arizona	61.5
45	Louisiana	61.4
46	Mississippi	61.3
47	Arkansas	61.2
48	Alabama	61.1
49	Kentucky	60.9
50	Florida	57.5
51	West Virginia	54.6

Labor force defined

The labor force measure used here is a snapshot of labor force participation at the time the census was taken. The labor force includes people who were working during the week they filled out the census form, those temporarily absent from work or laid off, and those not working but looking for work. Labor force participation is measured only for the population 16 and older. People in the Armed Forces are counted in the labor force but are not included in the counts of employed or unemployed used to calculate unemployment rates. Minnesota has a very small number of military personnel, so they have little effect on participation rates.

LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY, 1990 AND 2000

	Number in labor force			Percent of 2000 population 16+ in labor force		
	1990	2000	Percent change, 1990-2000	Both sexes	Males	Females
Minnesota	2,314,975	2,691,709	16.3	71.2	76.6	66.0
Aitkin	4,950	6,771	36.8	53.9	58.4	49.4
Anoka	139,872	170,915	22.2	77.3	82.0	72.7
Becker	12,368	14,759	19.3	64.0	69.4	58.6
Beltrami	15,369	19,554	27.2	65.9	70.8	61.4
Benton	15,858	19,602	23.6	75.2	80.1	70.4
Big Stone	2,797	2,657	-5.0	57.6	64.4	51.4
Blue Earth	29,183	33,035	13.2	72.6	77.1	68.2
Brown	13,370	14,636	9.5	69.5	74.7	64.5
Carlton	13,003	15,270	17.4	61.8	64.9	58.6
Carver	26,982	39,072	44.8	78.0	85.3	70.9
Cass	8,697	12,523	44.0	59.0	62.3	55.7
Chippewa	6,193	6,703	8.2	65.6	71.9	59.8
Chisago	15,051	21,840	45.1	72.6	77.2	67.9
Clay	25,917	27,318	5.4	68.5	72.4	65.0
Clearwater	3,407	3,990	17.1	61.0	66.1	55.9
Cook	2,000	2,843	42.2	66.9	71.4	62.3
Cottonwood	5,750	6,103	6.1	64.1	71.4	57.5
Crow Wing	19,735	27,274	38.2	63.3	68.5	58.3
Dakota	159,900	206,500	29.1	78.4	83.9	73.1
Dodge	8,128	9,707	19.4	74.3	80.2	68.5
Douglas	13,690	17,172	25.4	66.1	72.4	60.0
Faribault	7,629	8,113	6.3	63.4	69.8	57.3
Fillmore	9,981	11,190	12.1	68.4	75.4	61.6
Freeborn	16,296	16,748	2.8	64.9	71.1	59.0
Goodhue	20,411	24,109	18.1	70.8	77.0	64.8
Grant	2,798	3,155	12.8	63.0	69.3	57.1
Hennepin	600,245	641,557	6.9	73.2	79.1	67.6
Houston	9,490	10,519	10.8	70.1	75.2	65.3
Hubbard	6,501	8,573	31.9	59.3	63.4	55.2
Isanti	12,782	17,120	33.9	72.7	78.6	67.0
Itasca	17,251	20,606	19.4	59.2	64.6	53.9
Jackson	5,430	5,867	8.0	66.0	71.9	59.9
Kanabec	6,191	7,657	23.7	67.0	71.1	62.9
Kandiyohi	18,915	21,937	16.0	69.2	74.8	63.8
Kittson	2,544	2,417	-5.0	58.9	64.7	53.2
Koochiching	7,661	6,881	-10.2	60.5	67.1	54.3
Lac qui Parle	3,885	3,975	2.3	62.6	67.6	57.7
Lake	4,760	5,504	15.6	62.0	67.1	56.9
Lake of the Woods	1,979	2,290	15.7	64.5	69.1	59.9
LeSueur	11,568	13,959	20.7	72.2	77.1	67.3
Lincoln	3,003	3,216	7.1	62.9	70.3	56.0
Lyon	12,533	14,135	12.8	72.0	78.0	66.3
McLeod	16,546	19,191	16.0	72.8	78.3	67.5
Mahnomen	1,842	2,381	29.3	61.2	64.3	58.2

Source: 1990 and 2000 census data

LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY, 1990 AND 2000

	Number in labor force			Percent of 2000 population 16+ in labor force		
	1990	2000	Percent change, 1990-2000	Both sexes	Males	Females
Marshall	4,720	4,957	5.0	62.4	68.1	56.6
Martin	10,911	11,224	2.9	65.3	72.6	58.6
Meeker	9,805	11,743	19.8	67.7	73.4	62.2
Mille Lacs	8,494	11,272	32.7	65.8	71.1	60.8
Morrison	13,179	16,043	21.7	66.9	72.2	61.5
Mower	17,168	19,380	12.9	64.3	71.6	57.4
Murray	4,318	4,740	9.8	65.8	71.7	60.1
Nicollet	15,148	17,553	15.9	74.9	78.4	71.6
Nobles	9,637	10,613	10.1	66.2	73.0	59.7
Norman	3,371	3,603	6.9	62.0	67.7	56.5
Olmsted	59,402	69,525	17.0	73.5	78.3	69.0
Otter Tail	23,347	27,924	19.6	62.2	67.9	56.5
Pennington	6,293	7,239	15.0	67.4	69.6	65.3
Pine	8,927	12,766	43.0	61.9	64.5	59.0
Pipestone	4,733	5,077	7.3	65.9	72.7	59.9
Polk	14,998	15,270	1.8	62.9	67.5	58.5
Pope	4,717	5,541	17.5	62.5	69.2	56.5
Ramsey	265,693	277,129	4.3	70.2	75.6	65.4
Red Lake	1,983	2,123	7.1	62.8	66.8	58.8
Redwood	7,812	8,446	8.1	65.1	71.1	59.3
Renville	7,887	8,641	9.6	65.5	72.9	58.2
Rice	26,075	31,009	18.9	70.2	74.6	65.9
Rock	4,669	5,006	7.2	66.7	73.2	60.5
Roseau	7,479	8,781	17.4	72.7	77.1	68.1
St. Louis	91,225	101,258	11.0	62.7	67.7	58.0
Scott	32,134	50,862	58.3	79.4	85.1	73.8
Sherburne	21,766	35,429	62.8	76.0	80.6	71.1
Sibley	7,032	8,192	16.5	70.4	76.0	64.7
Stearns	62,190	75,320	21.1	72.8	77.1	68.5
Steele	16,129	18,651	15.6	73.0	79.2	67.1
Stevens	4,941	5,560	12.5	67.5	73.7	61.9
Swift	4,672	5,438	16.4	56.7	54.3	59.7
Todd	10,145	11,832	16.6	63.3	69.8	56.7
Traverse	1,876	1,764	-6.0	54.4	63.2	46.0
Wabasha	9,704	11,684	20.4	70.8	76.4	65.3
Wadena	5,629	6,301	11.9	59.6	65.6	54.0
Waseca	8,999	10,023	11.4	66.3	67.6	65.0
Washington	80,020	111,853	39.8	75.4	80.2	70.7
Watsonwan	5,579	5,808	4.1	64.3	70.3	58.6
Wilkin	3,448	3,567	3.5	65.8	72.2	59.7
Winona	25,221	28,172	11.7	70.5	75.5	65.8
Wright	35,889	49,527	38.0	76.3	81.3	71.3
Yellow Medicine	5,149	5,519	7.2	63.9	69.7	58.2

Source: 1990 and 2000 census data

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